

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for outcomes monitoring comprising the
5 steps of:
collecting at least two outcomes data sets;
converting the at least two outcomes data sets
into at least one outcomes result;
establishing a norm for an outcomes data group,
10 the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the at
least two outcomes data sets;
comparing a selected one of the at least one
outcomes result to the norm; and
generating at least one outcomes monitoring report
15 comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes
result and the norm.
2. The method of claim 1,
transmitting the at least two outcomes data sets to a
data processor.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1,
selectively restricting access to the outcomes
monitoring report.
4. The method of claim 1,
posting the outcomes monitoring report to a webpage.

5. The method of claim 4,
selectively restricting access to the webpage.

6. The method of claim 1,
collecting the at least two outcomes data sets from at
5 least one user entity at a plurality of discrete intervals.

7. The method of claim 6,
generating the outcomes report from at least two of the
plurality of discrete intervals.

8. The method of claim 1,
10 collecting the outcomes data sets from a plurality of
user entities,
individually identifying and converting the outcomes
data sets for each user entity of the plurality of user
entities, and

15 wherein the outcomes data sets from the plurality of
user entities comprises the outcomes data group.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the outcomes monitoring
report includes at least one outcomes result for a selected
user entity of the plurality of user entities and at least
20 one comparison of the norm to the selected one of the least
one outcomes result for the selected user entity.

10. A computer signal embodied in a carrier wave readable
by a computing system and encoding a computer program of

instructions for executing a computer process performing the method recited in claim 1.

11. A method for outcomes monitoring of surgical procedures comprising the steps of:

5 collecting at least two primary source surgical outcomes data sets;

 converting the at least two primary source surgical outcomes data sets into at least one outcomes result;

10 establishing a norm for an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the at least two outcomes data sets,

 comparing a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

15 generating at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

12. The method of claim 11,

 transmitting the at least two primary source surgical outcomes data sets to a data processor:

13. The method of claim 11,

 selectively restricting access to the outcomes monitoring report.

14. The method of claim 11,

posting the outcomes monitoring report to a webpage.

15. The method of claim 14,

selectively restricting access to the webpage.

16. The method of claim 11,

5 collecting the at least two primary source surgical
outcomes data sets from a plurality of surgical centers;
individually identifying and converting the at least
two primary source outcomes data sets for each surgical
center of the plurality of surgical centers; and

10 wherein the outcomes data sets from the plurality of
surgical centers comprises the outcomes data group.

17. The method of claim 16,

 wherein the outcomes monitoring report includes at
least one outcomes result for a selected surgical center of
15 the plurality of surgical centers and at least one
comparison of the norm to the selected one of the least one
outcomes result for the selected surgical center.

18. A computer signal embodied in a carrier wave readable
by a computing system and encoding a computer program of
20 instructions for executing a computer process performing the
method recited in claim 11.

19. An apparatus for outcomes monitoring, the apparatus
comprising:

a data collection portion wherein the data
collection portion collects at least two outcomes data sets;

a data processor portion wherein the data
processor portion receives the at least two outcomes data
5 sets from the data collection portion and wherein the data
processor comprises:

10 a converter portion wherein the converter
portion converts the at least two outcomes
data sets into an at least one outcomes
result;

15 a norm establishing portion wherein the norm
establishing portion establishes a norm for
an outcomes data group, the outcomes data
group comprising a plurality of the at least
two outcomes data sets,

20 a comparison portion wherein the comparison
portion compares a selected one of the at
least one outcomes result to the norm; and
a report generation portion wherein the
report generation portion generates at least
one outcomes monitoring report comprising the
at least one outcomes result and the norm.

20. The apparatus for outcomes monitoring of claim 19,
further comprising a webpage portion wherein the at least
one outcomes monitoring report is posted to a webpage.

21. The apparatus for outcomes monitoring of claim 19,

5 further comprising a security portion, the security portion
selectively restricting access to the at least two outcomes
data sets, the at least one outcomes result and the at least
one outcomes monitoring report.

22. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the at least two
10 outcomes data sets are surgical procedures outcomes data
sets.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the at least two
surgical procedures outcomes data sets are primary source
data sets.

15 24. An article of manufacture for outcomes monitoring, the
article of manufacture comprising:

at least one processor readable carrier; and

instructions carried on the at least one carrier;

wherein the instructions are configured to be readable

20 from the at least one carrier by at least one processor and
thereby cause the at least one processor to operate so as
to:

collect at least two outcomes data sets;

convert the at least two outcomes data sets into
at least one outcomes result;

establish a norm for an outcomes data group, the
outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the at least
5 two outcomes data sets;

compare a selected one of the at least one
outcomes result to the norm; and

generate at least one outcomes monitoring report
comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes
10 result and the norm.

25. A signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing
sequences of instructions which, when executed by at least
one processor, cause the at least one processor to monitor
outcomes by performing the steps of:

15 collecting at least two outcomes data sets;

converting the at least two outcomes data sets
into at least one outcomes result;

establishing a norm for an outcomes data group,
the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the at
20 least two outcomes data sets,

comparing a selected one of the at least one
outcomes result to the norm; and

generating at least one outcomes monitoring report
comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes
result and the norm.

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